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# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
September 29, 2000**

## **BORDER PATROL CHECKPOINTS SURPRISE SMUGGLERS WITH TEMPORARY CHECKPOINTS**

**San Diego, California:** In a three day period North County and East County Border Patrol Checkpoints arrested over 15 alien smugglers during temporary checkpoint operations. More than 200 aliens being smuggled in conveyances and on foot were also apprehended.

In constant effort to conduct flexible enforcement operations, Border Patrol checkpoints from time to time utilize temporary checkpoints to disrupt alien smuggling operations. Alien smugglers are always attempting to find ways of avoiding detection at Immigration Checkpoints. One method is to circumvent the checkpoint using side roads or picking up aliens who have hiked around the checkpoint. In addition to providing the element of surprise, temporary checkpoints enable identification of load car drivers, and provide leads of investigation into alien smuggling operations.

The Campo Station, in support of the Interstate 8 Checkpoint operated along old Highway 80. In this area, Old Highway 80 is a frequently traveled road by smugglers to circumvent the Interstate 8 checkpoint. During this operation agents arrested 15 alien smugglers and a total of 167 aliens. Of the aliens apprehended, 74 were smuggled in vehicles. The other 93 were either in route to a smuggling vehicle or attempting to walk around the checkpoint and temporary checkpoint.

The Temecula Station conducted checkpoint operations at two separate temporary checkpoints east of the Interstate 15 Checkpoint. The routes that agents inspected are fairly remote and surprised alien smugglers not accustomed to a frequent Border Patrol Checkpoint in this area. The agents' operations yielded 47 apprehensions over the three-day period.

**VIDEO FOOTAGE AVAILABLE UNTIL 5:00 PM**